

U.S. Serial No. 10/825,984
Filed: April 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

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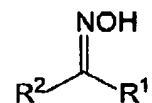
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A solvent extraction composition comprising one or more orthohydroxyarylaloximes and one or more orthohydroxyarylketoimes, and one or more equilibrium modifiers selected from 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol mono-isobutyrate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol mono-benzoate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-isobutyrate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-benzoate, isobutyl heptyl ketone, nonanone, 2,6,8-trimethyl-4-nonanone, diundecyl ketone, 5,8-diethyldodecane-6,7-dione, tridecanol, and nonyl phenol in an amount providing a degree of modification of the orthohydroxyarylaloximes present of from about 0.2 to 0.61.

2. (Original) A solvent extraction composition according to Claim 1 wherein the degree of modification is from about 0.4 to 0.6.

3. (Original) A solvent extraction composition according to any one of Claims 1 or 2 wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoimes are compounds of formula:



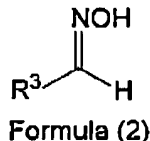
Formula (1)

wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group

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R^2 is an optionally substituted ortho-hydroxyaryl group, and salts thereof, and the orthohydroxyarylaldoxime are compounds of the formula:



wherein

R^3 is an optionally substituted ortho-hydroxyaryl group, and salts thereof.

4. (Original) A solvent extraction composition according to Claim 3 wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoxime is a 5-(C_8 to C_{14} alkyl)-2-hydroxyacetophenone oxime, and the orthohydroxyarylaldoxime is a 5-(C_8 to C_{14} alkyl)-2-hydroxybenzaldoxime.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A solvent extraction composition according to Claim 1 ~~Claim 6~~ wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoxime is 2-hydroxy-5-nonylbenzophenone oxime, and the orthohydroxyarylaldoxime is 2-hydroxy-5-nonylsalicylaldoxime and equilibrium modifier is 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-isobutyrate.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for the extraction of a metal from solution in which an acidic solution containing a dissolved metal is contacted with a solvent extraction composition, whereby at least a fraction of the metal is extracted into the organic solution, characterised in that the solvent extraction composition comprises a water

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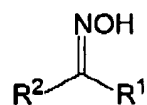
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immiscible organic solvent, one or more orthohydroxyarylaloximes and one or more orthohydroxyarylketoximes, and one or more equilibrium modifiers selected from 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol mono-isobutyrate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol mono-benzoate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-isobutyrate, 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-benzoate, isobutyl heptyl ketone, nonanone, 2,6,8-trimethyl-4-nonanone, diundecyl ketone, 5,8-diethyldodecane-6,7-dione, tridecanol, and nonyl phenol in an amount providing a degree of modification of the orthohydroxyarylaloximes present of from about 0.2 to 0.61.

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 8 wherein the metal is copper, cobalt, nickel, manganese or zinc.

10. (Original) A process according to Claim 9 wherein the degree of modification is from about 0.4 to 0.6.

11. (Original) A process according to any one of Claims 8, 9 or 10 wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoximes are compounds of formula:



Formula (1)

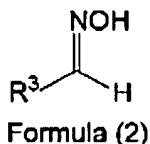
wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted hydrocarbyl group

R² is an optionally substituted ortho-hydroxyaryl group, and salts thereof,

and the orthohydroxyarylaloxime are compounds of the formula:

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wherein

R^3 is an optionally substituted
ortho-hydroxyaryl group, and salts
thereof.

12. (Original) A process according to Claim 11 wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoimine is a 5-(C_8 to C_{14} alkyl)-2-hydroxyacetophenone oxime, and the orthohydroxyarylaldoimine is a 5-(C_8 to C_{14} alkyl)-2-hydroxybenzaldoimine.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 12 ~~Claim 14~~ wherein the orthohydroxyarylketoimine is 2-hydroxy-5-nonylbenzophenone oxime, and the orthohydroxyarylaldoimine is 2-hydroxy-5-nonylsalicylaldoimine and equilibrium modifier is 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol di-isobutyrate.